Lack of Sanitation in Urban Areas

3193. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that today 44 per cent of the families in the urban areas live in one room and individuals toilet facility is available to only 24 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no sanitation for 52 per cent of urban population and 34 per cent of the urban population does not have any arrangement, even drainage of rain water, around its habital; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are Government's plans to remedy the situation including the stopping of migration from villages to cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) As per 1991 census, out of a total number of 39,493,450 urban households (excluding Jammu & Kashmir), 72.75% houses are Pucca, 17.69% houses are semi-pucca, 9.56% houses are kutcha, 6.68% houses are servicable kutcha and 2.88% houses are non-servicable kutcha. The urban population as per 1991 census (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) is 215,771,612 out of which 63.85% have toilet facilities.

(b) Based on the information received from the State Public Health Engineering Departments, Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, Metro Boards, etc. It has been assessed that about 49% of the population in the urban areas have got access to sewarage and sanitation facilities as on 31-3-1997.

(c) Provision of civic amenties including water supply and sanitation being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, execute, operate and maintain these facilities. It is for the State Governments to plan out policies which would stop migration of people from villages to cities.

Urban Academy for the Development of Cities

3194. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Urban Academy in the country for the development of cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present unplanned growth of cities has posed several infrastructural problems; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Urban Academy will improve infrastructural facilites in various cities in a planned way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is to set up an Academy for Urban Administrators and Technologists. The proposed academy, besides imparting training and skills to senior managerial and technical staff, would also conduct and coordinate research in respect of human settlement technology.

(b) For working out the details and modalities of setting up of the proposed academy, a Group has been appointed by the Ministry of Urban Development. The matter is also under discussion with the Planning Commission.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposed Academy for Urban Administrators and Technologists would be primarily a high level research and training centre. It would also study the problem of the cities and recommend remedial measures to improve the management and development of city projects.

Privatisation of Water Supply Services

3195. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether privatisation will be helpful in water supply services;

(b) if so, whether it will be possible with minimum cost to the consumer; and

(c) how does he propose to go about the selection process of private entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Privatisation of water supply can be helpful in improving services through better management, operation and maintenance, accountability, optimum use of available resources and mobilisation of additional finance. However, it is for the concerned State Government to decide on this matter.